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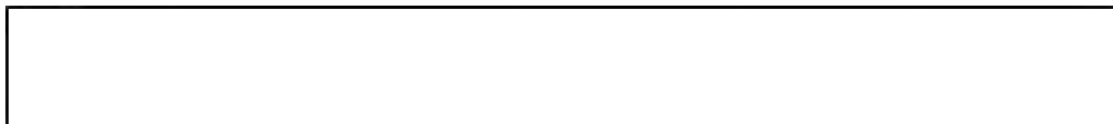
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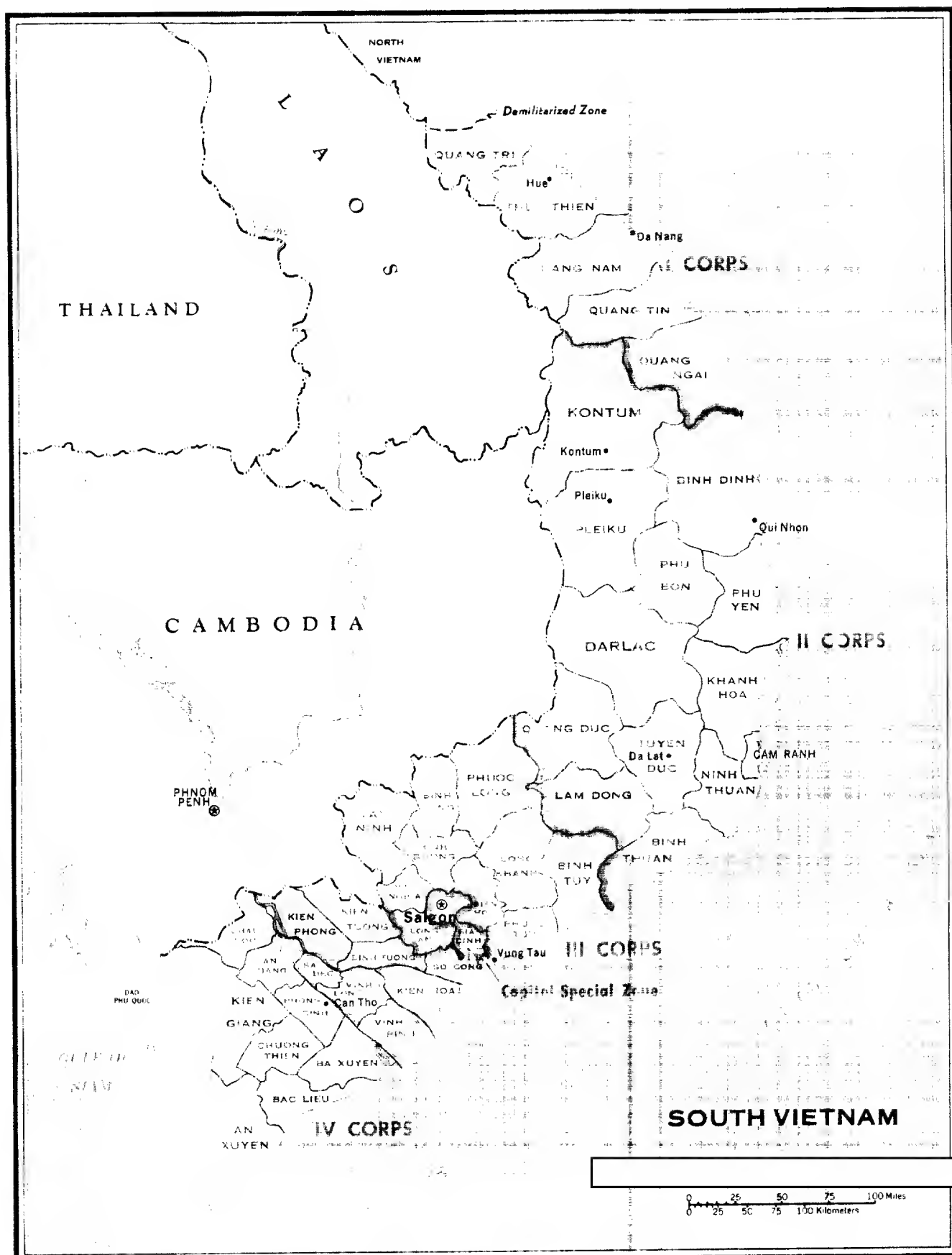
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Vietnam:

South Vietnam: Ground fighting remains light as Communist forces continue to maneuver in apparent preparation for renewed offensive action.

Allied forces in III Corps reported numerous minor contacts with the enemy on 5 and 6 August, possibly indicating that small enemy units are trying to move closer to Saigon. Several Communist battalions are now within a short march of the capital. These forces pose a considerable threat. Because three Communist divisions normally deployed in the region remain in the far north of the corps, however, any early offensive against Saigon may be limited to a few high impact targets, possibly accompanied by shellings.

In the delta, a series of coordinated attacks on 5 August against nine outposts in Kien Phong Province, as well as a mortar barrage on the provincial capital, could represent another attempt to mask troop movements toward Saigon. Such unit movements have been reported recently by a rallier and several agents.

North Vietnam: Recent Hanoi radio propaganda reinforces indications that another Communist offensive in the South is imminent and suggests that the North Vietnamese people are being prepared for greater hardships. Domestic broadcasts have cited recent statements by US leaders to claim that the US is still "stubbornly pursuing" the war and to imply that additional Communist military pressure is required. Cryptic references in two such items on 3 August to the need for special measures to maintain internal security and public order suggest that Hanoi is also taking precautions against indiscipline or dissidence should the war intensify.



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[USSR-Czechoslovakia: In a formal politburo statement, Moscow notified Prague that it will be keeping a close eye on how the Czechoslovaks carry through on the broad pledges made at Bratislava.

Yesterday's official communiqué affirmed that the entire Soviet politburo approved the agreement of 3 August. Avoiding the harsh language of late July, the statement said that it is the "prime international task" of all the signers of the Bratislava agreement to carry its provisions into life. It said that Moscow "will be doing, for its part, everything in its power" to this end.

In keeping with the post-Bratislava Soviet press treatment, the communiqué described the meetings last week in terms which suggested they were victories for Communist unity and orthodoxy. This may be intended to save face for the Soviet leaders at home but it also serves as an antidote to the more optimistic description of events being put out by Czechoslovak sources. Soviet press treatment of Dubcek suggests Moscow is prepared to work with him for the time being, but that it could again escalate the war of nerves if the Czechoslovaks show signs of backsliding on the agreement.

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Syria-Lebanon: Syria is putting pressure on Lebanon in an attempt to force the adoption of policies more favorable to Damascus.

Syria complains that Lebanon is permitting exile groups to plot against the Syrian Government. It also has protested Lebanese Army efforts to prevent Syrian-backed terrorist groups from using Lebanese territory to launch raids against Israel.

To back up its complaints, Syria thus far has applied only economic pressure and travel restrictions against Lebanon but Lebanese officials fear that additional pressures will be exerted. The Lebanese cabinet has retaliated by increasing tariffs on Syrian commerce.

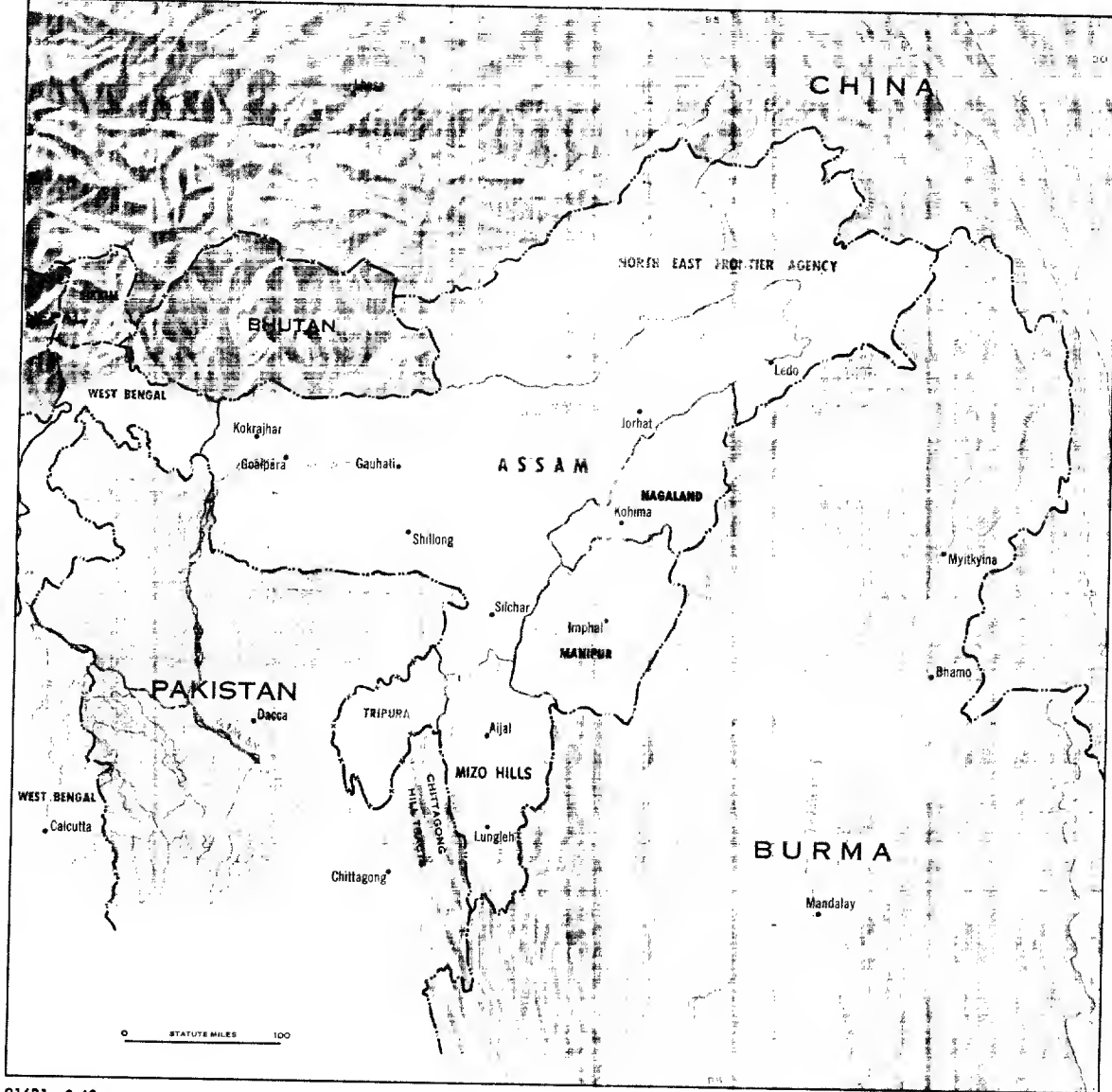
Lebanon may take steps to curtail the activities of the Syrian exiles within its borders. Fearing tough Israeli reprisals, the Lebanese will probably continue, however, to inhibit terrorist raids into Israel.

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India: New Delhi has announced a two-month extension of the Nagaland cease-fire but has taken new measures to prevent armed Nagas from infiltrating back from China.

The extension of the cease-fire was expected, despite some saber rattling by the Indian press after Nagas were discovered in possession of Chinese arms. New Delhi wants to avoid responsibility for renewing hostilities lest this reunite the Naga underground, now apparently divided over the question of Chinese support and whether there should be further parleys with the Indian Government. Indian Army commanders also want to maintain the cease-fire because they believe the difficult terrain and the rebels' demonstrated fighting ability foreclose a military solution without excessive bloodshed.

New Delhi, however, has announced that it will attack any Naga group known to be in possession of Chinese arms. Increased border surveillance has been reinforced by a recent decision requiring permits for crossing the 375-mile border between Burma and Nagaland, Manipur, and the Mizo Hills. Free movement was previously allowed for 25 miles on each side of the dense jungle frontier.

Meanwhile, Kaito Sema, one of the Naga leaders who split last year with the underground faction that favors support from China, was assassinated on 4 August, reportedly by a member of the Angami tribe that leads the more militant Nagas. The US consul general in Calcutta suggests that the murder of Kaito, who is from the Sema tribe, could lead to a tribal blood feud if it is established that the assailant acted on behalf of Naga militants.

New Delhi will no doubt welcome further strains in the underground. The emergence of serious inter-tribal hostility, however, could require Indian Army intervention to maintain security, thus seriously straining the cease-fire.

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Ecuador: President-elect Velasco threatens not to take office on 1 September if he is deprived of the pork barrel.

Only hours before Interim President Otto Arosemena signed a public administration career law on 5 August, Velasco reiterated on television that he would not assume the presidency if he had to abide by a law that gives tenure to public employees after four years' service.

[Reaction to the signing of the career law among Velasco's followers has led to demonstrations in Quito and Guayaquil.]

Jorge Zavala, elected vice president on a ticket opposed to Velasco, has said that he disagrees and will assume the presidency if Velasco does not. Legislators of the parties backing the two men came to a surprise working agreement last week and will control both houses of the new congress, which will convene on 10 August.

The US Embassy in Quito comments that the 1967 constitution is vague on succession and that Velasco's followers will probably persuade him to take office. Not even those closest to him, however, can predict what the 75-year-old four-time ex-president will do. He may not know himself, but his personalistic approach to power would indeed be severely affected if he could not pass out a great many jobs at all levels. Some of his followers reportedly believe that Velasco will carry out his threat unless he has assurance of US financial aid. Arosemena is leaving Ecuador in serious economic and financial condition.

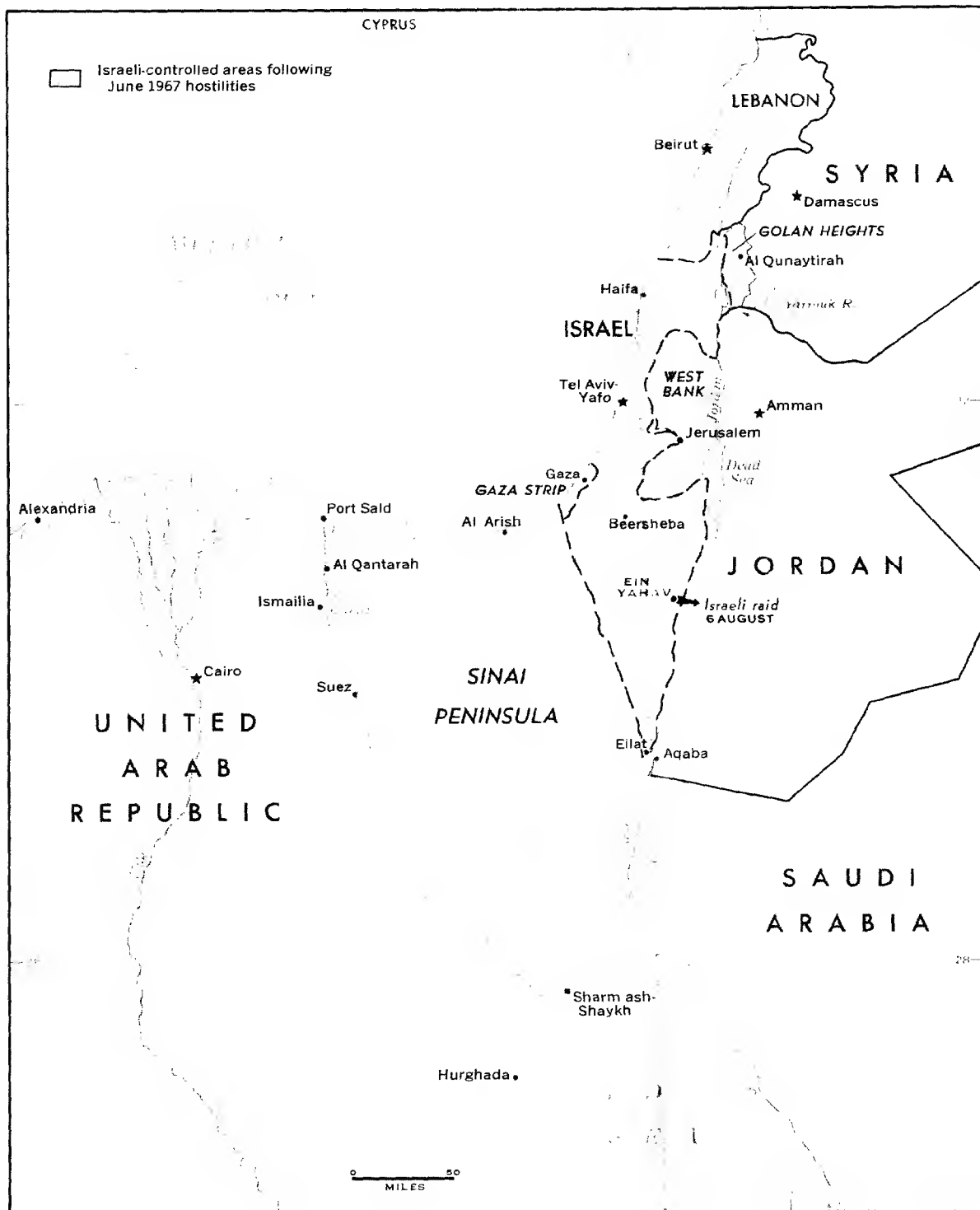


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Israel-Jordan: The hot pursuit of Arab terrorists into Jordan near Ein Yahav yesterday was the first time since early April that Israeli ground forces have crossed the border. The Israelis have been especially sensitive to fedayeen operations below the Dead Sea where their settlements are isolated and vulnerable. The fact that the Israelis brought back the bodies of saboteurs killed during the operation may indicate that they have discovered evidence concerning the terrorist organizations and possible links to the Jordan Arab Army. [REDACTED]

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Youth Festival: There were increasing signs of discord as the Ninth World Youth Festival drew to a close yesterday in Sofia. The Bulgarian ambassador in Tunis was summoned by the Tunisian foreign minister to explain the violent treatment accorded members of the Tunisian delegation by the Bulgarian militia. Some disgruntled delegations left Sofia early and others had threatened to do so. The Yugoslavs on 5 August charged festival officials with discrimination, and complained of the undemocratic atmosphere, procedural manipulations, and excessive security measures at the festival. It appears that the Bulgarian authorities, reportedly with the help of Soviet secret police, succeeded in averting widespread disorders only by saturating festival activities with security forces. [REDACTED]

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Congo (Brazzaville): President Massamba-Debat apparently has emerged from an attempted coup by army and some militia elements with his position intact and possibly even strengthened. The opportunistic leader of the coup attempt, former paracommando chief Ngouabi, has also gained, however. He has been confirmed by the President as armed forces commander in chief. The radical-leftist opposition seems to have been unable to capitalize on the weekend's events. Key members of the provisional government formed on 5 August are closely associated with the relatively moderate President and his pragmatic policies.

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